



Testimony in support of HB 2331

House Government, Technology and Security Committee

Charles Hunt

**State Epidemiologist and Director of Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health
Informatics, Kansas Department of Health and Environment**

February 15, 2017

Chairman DeGraaf, Vice Chairman Lewis and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 2331. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) is a proponent of HB 2331, which would enact the Kansas Cybersecurity Act and create a fully-funded, centralized Kansas Information Security Office (KISO).

Information security is vital to KDHE's mission to protect and promote the public's health. In order to carry out this mission, KDHE maintains significant amounts of confidential and sensitive information, and in my position I oversee some of the agency's most sensitive data. While it is critical that we gather and maintain this data to safeguard public health, it is also important that we employ best practices to safeguard the privacy of Kansans.

Every day new cyber threats emerge, presenting a challenge to our agency and all others seeking to protect sensitive data. To counter these threats, it is imperative to devote the resources needed for state agencies to perform cybersecurity measures in a coordinated, consistent, and comprehensive manner.

The Kansas Cybersecurity Act will help KDHE achieve this extremely necessary security. It would ensure that adequate funding, staffing, and other resources are devoted to cybersecurity throughout the state government enterprise, and would support the development of consistent policies and risk management across the board. This would allow our agency, as well as others, to better anticipate and mitigate risk, respond to cyber threats, comply with state and federal regulations, provide high quality training to employees, standardize reporting and accountability measures, and build the trust with Kansas residents that is so important for us to achieve our mission.